

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Lock See Yu-Jahnes on 10/19/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 7 and 9 are canceled.

Claims 1 should read as,

(Currently amended) A multi-function image processing apparatus that includes a plurality of image processing units that perform a plurality of image processing functions, including a printer unit that performs a printer function and a scanner unit that performs a scanner function, the apparatus comprising:

an IP address generator connected to an Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) router on a network that repeatedly acquires a prefix information from the IPv6 router and generates a plurality of IP addresses, based on the acquired prefix information, wherein each of the IP addresses is unique to a different one of the plurality of image

processing units, and wherein a number of the IP addresses is equal to the number of the image processing units; and

a controller that communicates with at least one appliance on the network using the IP addresses generated for the image processing units and operates each of the image processing units to perform communications between each of the image processing units and the at least one appliance, and that executes a transfer task for transferring packet data,

wherein the transfer task for transferring packet data is managed by an Operating System (OS) using buffer areas allocated to the printer unit and the scanner unit, respectively.

Claim 2 should read as,

(Currently amended) The multi-function image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller performs the plurality of image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover, a plurality of control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions, and performs the communications using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing units based on the control task program, taking as a unit a control task program corresponding to an image processing function of the plurality of image processing functions.

Claim 3 should read as,

(Currently amended) A control method performed by a multi-function image processing apparatus that includes a plurality of image processing units that perform a plurality of image processing functions, including a printer unit that performs a printer function and a scanner unit that performs a scanner function, the method comprising:

an IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) router on a network, repeatedly acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router, and generating a plurality of IP addresses, based on the acquired prefix information, wherein each of the IP addresses is unique to a different one of the plurality of image processing units, and wherein a number of IP address is equal to a number of image processing units;

a controlling step of performing a communication with at least one appliance on the network using the IP addresses generated from the image processing units and operating each of the image processing units, so that the controlling step executes communications between each of the image processing unit and the at least one appliance, and

an executing step of executing a transfer task for transferring packet data managed by the Operating System (OS) using buffer areas allocated to the printer unit and the scanner unit, respectively.

Claim 4 should read as,

(Previously presented) The control method according to claim 3, wherein the controlling step involves executing the plurality of image processing functions by

executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover, control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions, and performing the communications using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions based on the control task program, taking as a unit a control task program corresponding to one of the plurality of image processing functions.

Claim 5 should read as,

(Currently amended) A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing a computer-executable control program for performing a method of controlling a multi-function image processing apparatus that includes a plurality of image processing units that perform a plurality of image processing functions, including a printer unit that performs a printer function and a scanner unit that performs a scanner function, the method comprising:

an IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) router on a network, repeatedly acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router, and generating a plurality of IP addresses, based on the acquired prefix information, wherein each of the IP addresses is unique to a different one of the plurality of image processing functions, and wherein a number of the plurality of IP addresses is equal to a number of the plurality of image processing units;

a controlling step of performing a communication with at least one appliance on the network using the IP addresses generated for the image processing units and operating each of the image processing units, so that communication between tech of

the image processing units and the at least one appliance are performed in the controlling step, and

an executing step of executing a transfer task for transferring packed data managed by an Operating System (OS) using buffer areas allocated to the printer unit and the scanner unit, respectively.

Claim 6 should read as,

(Currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable medium according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of image processing function s are performed in the controlling step by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover, a plurality of control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions, and performing the communications using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions based on the control task program, taking as a unit a control task program corresponding to one of the plurality of image processing functions.

Claim 8 should read as,

(Currently amended) The multi-function image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the IP address generator sends each generated IP address to the router to check for duplication of the IP address, and, if the IP address is a duplicate, the IP address generator generates an IP address different from the duplicate IP address based on the prefix information.

Claims 10 should read as,

(Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein IP address generating step includes sending each the generated IP address to the router to check for duplication of the IP address, and, if the IP address is a duplicate, the IP address generating step includes generating an IP address different from the duplicate IP address based on the prefix information.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-6, 8 and 10 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 1 is directed to a multi-function image processing apparatus that is connected to the an IPv6 router on a network that repeatedly acquired prefix information and generates a plurality of IP addresses, based on the acquired prefix information, wherein each of the IP address is unique and equal to a different one of the plurality of image processing units; and a controller that communicates with at least one appliance on the network using the IP addresses generated, that executes a transfer task, which is managed by an OS using buffer areas allocated to the printer unit and the scanner unit, for transferring packet data to the image processing units. The most pertinent prior art is Lam et al. (US Publication Number 2003/0142683 A1). The prior art made of record does not disclose a multi-function image processing apparatus that is connected to the an IPv6 router on a network that repeatedly acquired prefix information and generates a plurality of IP

addresses, based on the acquired prefix information, wherein each of the IP address is unique and equal to a different one of the plurality of image processing units; and a controller that communicates with at least one appliance on the network using the IP addresses generated, that executes a transfer task, which is managed by an OS using buffer areas allocated to the printer unit and the scanner unit, for transferring packet data to the image processing units. The Examiner finds no reason or motivation to combine the above references in an obviousness rejection thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Hilina Kassa whose telephone number is (571) 270-1676.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore could be reached at (571) 272- 7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hilina S Kassa/

Examiner, Art Unit 2625

October 19, 2010

/Edward L. Coles/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625